

§ 309.25 Peace Corps' participation in the IRS tax refund offset program.

(a) The Peace Corps will provide information to the IRS within the time frame prescribed by the Commissioner of the IRS to enable the Commissioner to make a final determination as to the Peace Corps' participation in the tax refund offset program. Such information will include a description of:

- (1) The size and age of the Peace Corps' inventory of delinquent debts;
- (2) The prior collection efforts that the inventory reflects; and
- (3) The quality controls the Peace Corps maintains to assure that any debt that may be submitted for tax refund offset will be valid and enforceable.

(b) In accordance with the timetable specified by the Commissioner, the Peace Corps will submit test magnetic media to the IRS, in such form and containing such data as the IRS shall specify.

(c) The Peace Corps will provide the IRS with a telephone number which the IRS may furnish to individuals whose refunds have been offset to obtain information concerning the offset.

§ 309.26 Procedures.

(a) The Chief Financial Officer (or designee) shall be the point of contact with the IRS for administrative matters regarding the offset program.

(b) The Peace Corps shall ensure that:

- (1) Only those past-due legally enforceable debts described in § 309.23 are forwarded to the IRS for offset; and
- (2) The procedures prescribed in the MOU between the Peace Corps and the IRS are followed in developing past-due debt information and submitting the debts to the IRS.

(c) The Peace Corps shall submit a notification of a taxpayer's liability for past-due legally enforceable debt to the IRS on magnetic media as prescribed by the IRS. Such notification shall contain:

- (1) The name and taxpayer identifying number (as defined in section 6109 of the Internal Revenue Code) of the individual who is responsible for the debt;
- (2) The dollar amount of such past-due and legally enforceable debt;

(3) The date on which the original debt became past due;

(4) A statement accompanying each magnetic tape certifying that, with respect to each debt reported on the tape, all of the requirements of eligibility of the debt for referral for the refund offset have been satisfied. See § 309.23.

(d) The Peace Corps shall promptly notify the IRS to correct data submitted when the Peace Corps:

- (1) Determines that an error has been made with respect to a debt that has been referred;
- (2) Receives or credits a payment on such debt; or
- (3) Receives notification that the individual owing the debt has filed for bankruptcy under title 11 of the United States Code or has been adjudicated bankrupt and the debt has been discharged.

(e) When advising debtors of an intent to refer a debt to the IRS for offset, the Peace Corps shall also advise the debtors of all remedial actions available to defer or prevent the offset from taking place.

§ 309.27 Referral of debts for offset.

(a) The Peace Corps shall refer to the IRS for collection by tax refund offset, from refunds otherwise payable, only such past-due legally enforceable debts owed to the Peace Corps:

(1) That are eligible for offset under the terms of 31 U.S.C. 3720A, section 6402(d) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 CFR 301.6402-6T and the MOU; and

(2) That information will be provided for each such debt as is required by the terms of the MOU.

(b) Such referrals shall be made by submitting to the IRS a magnetic tape pursuant to § 309.26(c), together with a written certification that the conditions or requirements specified in 26 CFR 301.6402-6T and the MOU have been satisfied with respect to each debt included in the referral on such tape. The certification shall be in the form specified in the MOU.

§ 309.28 Notice requirements before offset.

(a) The Peace Corps must notify, or make a reasonable attempt to notify, the individual that:

- (1) The debt is past due; and

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(2) Unless repaid within 60 days thereafter, the debt will be referred to the IRS for offset against any refund of overpayment of tax.

(b) The Peace Corps shall provide a mailing address for forwarding any correspondence and a contact name and telephone number for any questions.

(c) The Peace Corps shall give the individual debtor at least 60 days from the date of the notification to present evidence that all or part of the debt is not past due or legally enforceable. The Peace Corps shall consider the evidence presented by the individual and shall make a determination whether any part of such debt is past due and legally enforceable. For purposes of this subpart, evidence that collection of the debt is affected by a bankruptcy proceeding involving the individual shall bar referral of the debt to the IRS.

(d) Notification given to a debtor pursuant to paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section shall advise the debtor of how he or she may present evidence to the Peace Corps that all or part of the debt is not past due or legally enforceable. Such evidence may not be referred to, or considered by, individuals who are not officials, employees, or agents of the United States in making the determination required under paragraph (c) of this section. Unless such evidence is directly considered by an official or employee of the Peace Corps, and the determination required under paragraph (c) of this section has been made by an official or employee of the Peace Corps, any unresolved dispute with the debtor as to whether all or part of the debt is past due or legally enforceable must be referred to the Peace Corps for ultimate administrative disposition, and the Peace Corps must directly notify the debtor of its determination.

Subpart D—Administrative Offset

§ 309.29 Applicability and scope.

The provisions of this subpart apply to the collection of debts owed to the United States arising from transactions with the Peace Corps. Administrative offset is authorized under section 5 of the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, as amended by the Debt Collection Act of 1982 (31 U.S.C. 3716).

These regulations are consistent with the Federal Claims Collection Standards on administrative offset issued jointly by the Department of Justice and the General Accounting Office as set forth in 4 CFR part 102.

§ 309.30 Definitions.

(a) *Administrative offset*, as defined in 31 U.S.C. 3701(a)(1), means withholding money payable by the United States Government to, or held by the Government for, a person to satisfy a debt the person owes the Government.

(b) *Person* includes a natural person or persons, profit or nonprofit corporation, partnership, association, trust, estate, consortium, or other entity which is capable of owing a debt to the United States Government except that agencies of the United States, or of any State or local government shall be excluded.

§ 309.31 General.

(a) The Director of the Peace Corps (or designee) will determine the feasibility of collection by administrative offset on a case-by-case basis for each claim established. The Director (or designee) will consider the following issues in making a determination to collect a claim by administrative offset:

(1) Can administrative offset be accomplished?

(2) Is administrative offset practical and legal?

(3) Does administrative offset best serve and protect the interest of the U.S. Government?

(4) Is administrative offset appropriate given the debtor's financial condition?

(b) The Director (or designee) may initiate administrative offset with regard to debts owed by a person to another agency of the United States Government, upon receipt of a request from the head of another agency or his or her designee, and a certification that the debt exists and that the person has been afforded the necessary due process rights.

(c) The Director (or designee) may request another agency that holds funds payable to a Peace Corps debtor to offset the debt against the funds held and will provide certification that: